



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**Water Resources Board**  
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**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES#519**  
**Friday, April 20, 2012 @ 9:00 AM**

**RI Economic Development Corporation**  
**315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101**  
**Providence RI**

**Members Present**

Thomas Boving  
Kevin Flynn  
Alicia Good\*  
Pamela Marchand – Vice Chair  
Michael Walker\*  
Harold Ward  
Ronnie Gibson  
Susan Licardi  
June Swallow\*  
Michael DeFrancesco

**Members Absent**

Jon Schock  
William Stamp, III  
Jesse Rodrigues

**Guests**

Kevin Carvalho, State Risk Manager  
Bill Harritos, Quonset Development Corporation  
Nicole Belk, National Weather Service  
Lenny Giulliano, RIDEM Meteorologist

**Staff Present**

Kenneth J. Burke, P.E., General Manager  
Kathleen Crawley, Staff Director  
Romeo Mendes, P.E., Supervising Engineer

**AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order**

Chairperson Marchand called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 AM

**AGENDA ITEM #2: Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the March 16, 2012 meeting minutes made by A. Goode, seconded by J. Swallow. Unanimous approval.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: Chair Report**

Chair considered changing the schedule of our committee meetings one week in advance to allow Kevin Flynn more time to review Board packages. Chair also announced that the Board needs to reconvene its Finance Committee to proactively engage in budget discussions regarding our strategic planning initiatives. Consensus was developed (no vote was taken).

**AGENDA ITEM #4: General Manager's Report**

Ken Burke reported that the media had been inquiring as to the current drought condition of the State. Through various committee meetings this month a formal GM report was not available, but will be presented in next month's Board package. (no vote taken).

**AGENDA ITEM #5 A – Drought Steering Committee (DCS)**

The April 12, 2012 DSC and current conditions were reported by the staff, the Board, and Ms. Nicole Belk of the National Weather Service. Although rain is expected this weekend, there are likely to be drought advisory indices that

are met for the month of April. The Board discussed what types of actions might occur through and advisory, and the GM reported that the advisory stage focuses of communication of voluntary measures, and would likely also include messages related to efficient water use and lawn watering, similar to our lawn watering campaign from last summer. The Board decided that is the drought advisory indices are met on or about May 8<sup>th</sup> (after the April data is received), then the WRB staff should coordinate with the Governor's Office to issue a drought advisory. Motion by J. Swallow, seconded by H. Ward. Unanimous approval.

**AGENDA ITEM #5 B: Nominating Committee**

Mr. Ward presented the slate of officers for the WRB and WRB Corporate as: Pam Marchand, Chair; Ronnie Gibson, Vice-Chair, and Kenneth Burke, Secretary and Treasurer. Motion by H. Ward, second by J. Swallow. Unanimous approval.

Mr. Ward discussed conflicting instructions regarding the selection and presentation of potential Board candidates. Chairperson Marchand suggested that she and the Chair of the Nominating Committee (H. Ward) with the assistance of the GM, present a list of interested candidates to the Governor's Office for consideration. Motion by S. Licardi, second by T. Boving. Unanimous approval.

**AGENDA ITEM #5 C: Technical Committee**

The Board discussed the introduction of a request by the Adjunct General McBride to use the Big River Management Area as a "site for temporary debris storage and reduction". Staff have been working with RIDOT to understand the other 50 site that were also considered, and are committed to developing as many sites throughout the State as is appropriate and required. The Board requested that WRB staff 1) assess sites to perform this work throughout the State, 2) review the language of the draft Memorandum of Understanding to address issues such as duration of the emergency processing, provisions to restore the site consistent with a water resource area, and to utilize all other alternate sites for debris processing first and use Big River Management Area as a last resort. (no vote taken)

The Board discussed the RIDEM request to use the Big River Management Area to dig up to seven (7) excavations approximately 5' x 5' x 5' deep in order to accommodate soil testing classes led by URI professors. The Board discussed liabilities, and the GM clarified that he would present this request to the State Properties Committee, as they are the authority pertaining to use of State properties. Kevin Carvalho (State Risk Manager) questioned the type of excavation and the compliance with OSHA regulations. The Board requested that the WRB staff present this request to the SPC for consideration (no action taken). POSTSCRIPT: The General Manager identified the appropriate OSHA standards for open excavations and forwarded the requirements to RIDEM and the State Insurance Risk Manager for consideration.

The Board discussed a Division of Planning request for the disposition of a US Post Office in Providence. There were no apparent conflicts with WRB programs or water supply in general and therefore the staff suggestion (no impacts) was acknowledged (no action taken).

**AGENDA ITEM #5 D: Legislation & Policy Committee**

The Board discussed the loss of the General Liability insurance policy for the Big River Management Area, as all Board properties were transferred to the Division of Planning. The Board also discussed the continuation of their Directors & Officers (Public Officials and Employees) insurance. Kevin Carvalho discussed the coverage for the Board members and the State's general immunity as it relates to recreational uses of public lands. (no action taken).

Chairperson Marchand discussed the current status of the water meter bill (held for further study), water use & efficiency act modification (held for further study), current coordination with RICWFA to address the dissolution of the WRB Corporate, and the public hearing for the Division of Planning's water 2030 (no action taken).

**AGENDA ITEM #6: Adjournment**

Motion by M. Walker, second by J. Swallow. Unanimous approval.

The Board adjourned at approximately 10:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KB' or similar initials, with a stylized flourish.

Kenneth Burke  
General Manager